

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/CA2005/000420

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC(7): E04F 11/025

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC(7): E04F 11/025, 035, 09, 104, 108, 16 USPC: 52/182, 183, 188

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic database(s) consulted during the international search (name of database(s) and, where practicable, search terms used)

Canadian Patent Database, Delphion, Espacenet (stair\*, stringer, modular, laminate)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y	CA 1,145,526 A1 (LAPOINTE) 03 May 1983 (03-05-1983) *page 2, line 6 to page 6, line 3* *figures 1-3*	1-11, 13-19, 23-32, 36-42, 84, 85 12, 20-22, 33-35, 43-58
X Y	US 2,593,683 (LYONS) 22 April 1952 (22-04-1952) *column 1, lines 1-13* *column 1, line 43 to column 4, line 33* *figures 1-2*	1, 3-8, 17, 19, 24, 84 12, 20-22
X Y	CA 1,300,337 (MOLINAZZI) 12 May 1992 (12-05-1992) *page 2, line 25 to page 3a, line 34* *figure 5*	1-8, 13-15, 17 12
Y	US 2,724,466 (PHILLIPS) 22 November 1955 (22-11-1955) *column 2, lines 13-32*	12
Y	CA 2,366,561 A1 (GRENIER) 16 August 2001 (16-08-2001) *page 2, line 9 to page 6, line 11*	20-22, 43-58

[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

[X] See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

09 June 2005 (09-06-2005)

Date of mailing of the international search report

20 July 2005 (20-07-2005)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/CA  
Canadian Intellectual Property Office  
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## C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	CA 2,226,065 A1 (ZENKNER) 25 December 1998 (25-12-1998) *page 2, line 19 to page 5, line 10*	33-35
A	FR 2,740,802 A1 (FREDERIC) 09 May 1997 (09-05-1997) *whole document*	1-58, 84, 85

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## Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of the first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons :

1. ☐ Claim Nos. :  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely :
2. ☐ Claim Nos. :  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically :
3. ☐ Claim Nos. :  
because they are dependant claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows :

[see Supplemental Box No. III]

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claim Nos. :
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claim Nos. : 1-58, 84, 85

**Remark on Protest** ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.  
☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.  
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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Supplemental Box No. III

**Group A** - Claims 1-58, 84 and 85 are directed to a modular stringer comprising step support units having a main structural body, a first mating structure and a second mating structure, said first mating structure of said step support unit being adapted to be matingly coupled with an adjacent second mating structure of an adjacent step support unit such that said adjacent unit is vertically offset therefrom;

**Group B** - Claims 59-76 and 86 are directed to a modular stringer comprising step support units having at least one shaft and at least one coupling arm, said coupling arm of a first step support unit being adapted for accepting and solidly retaining said shaft of an adjacent step support unit therein such that said adjacent support unit may be vertically offset therefrom; and

**Group C** - Claims 77-83 and 87-90 are directed to a staircase comprising: at least two stringers; a series of steps adapted to be mounted to said stringers; and a plurality of step mounting brackets having a first flange and a second flange, each said step comprising a tread and a riser which are mounted to said stringers by said step mounting brackets.

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Information on patent family members

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Patent Document Cited in Search Report	Publication Date	Patent Family Member(s)	Publication Date
CA1145526 A1	03-05-1983	DE3263810D D1 EP0060014 A1 US4422270 A ZA8200403 A	04-07-1985 15-09-1982 27-12-1983 29-12-1982
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CA2226065 A1	25-12-1998	BR9800064 A DE19727043 A1 DE19881103D D2 US6067758 A WO9900560 A1	20-03-2001 04-02-1999 04-01-2001 30-05-2000 07-01-1999
FR2740802 A1	09-05-1997	NONE	